

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A lighting unit for a low-pressure mercury discharge lamp, comprising:
 - a rectifier/smoothing circuit module having a smoothing capacitor;
 - an inverter circuit module;
 - a resonance circuit module having a resonance capacitor;
 - a board on which the circuit modules are disposed; and
 - an inrush current limiting resistor connected to an input end of the rectifier/smoothing circuit module, wherein
 - a main body of the inrush current limiting resistor is in contact with or in proximity to a main body outer surface of at least one of the smoothing capacitor and the resonance capacitor.
2. (Original) The lighting unit according to Claim 1, wherein
 - the main body of the smoothing capacitor is farther away from the board than the main body of the resonant capacitor is from the board, and
 - the main body of the inrush current limiting resistor is in contact with or in proximity to the main body of the smoothing capacitor at an end farther away from the board, and in contact with or in proximity to the main body of the resonance capacitor at an end closer to the board.
3. (Original) A low-pressure mercury discharge lamp, comprising:
 - an arc tube;

a lighting unit operable to cause the arc tube to emit light;
a tubular case disposed to hold the arc tube and house the lighting unit therein;
and
a base disposed to cover an end of the case farther away from where the arc tube is held; wherein

the lighting unit includes:

a rectifier/smoothing circuit module having a smoothing capacitor;
an inverter circuit module;
a resonance circuit module having a resonance capacitor;
a board on which the circuit modules are disposed; and
an inrush current limiting resistor connected to an input end of the rectifier/smoothing circuit module, and
a main body of the inrush current limiting resistor is in contact with or in proximity to a main body outer surface of at least one of the smoothing capacitor and the resonance capacitor.

4. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 3, wherein

said at least one of the capacitors is the smoothing capacitor,
the smoothing capacitor and a choke coil that is included in the resonance circuit module are aligned axially of the case, with the choke coil disposed closer to the arc tube, and
the inrush current limiting resistor and the smoothing capacitor are in contact with or in proximity to each other at the respective main body outer surfaces.

5. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 4, wherein

the main body of the inrush current limiting resistor is in contact with or in proximity to the main body of the smoothing capacitor at an end farther away from the arc tube, and in contact with or in proximity to the main body of the resonance capacitor at an end closer to the arc tube.

6. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 4, wherein

the case is composed of a small diameter portion to which the base is disposed, a large diameter portion being larger in diameter than the small diameter portion, and a tapered portion externally tapered from the small diameter portion to large diameter portion,

the board is disposed within the large diameter portion, so that a main surface of the board is perpendicular to the axis of the case, and

the main body of the smoothing capacitor is at least partially located within the base.

7. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 5, wherein

the case is composed of a small diameter portion to which the base is disposed, a large diameter portion being larger in diameter than the small diameter portion, and a tapered portion externally tapered from the small diameter portion to large diameter portion,

the board is disposed within the large diameter portion, so that a main surface of the board is perpendicular to the axis of the case, and

the main body of the smoothing capacitor is at least partially located within the base.

8. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 6, wherein

the inrush current limiting resistor has a pair of lead wires extending one from either end of the main body,

one of the lead wires extends through a space present between the smoothing capacitor and an inner surface of the small diameter portion, and connects to the base, and

the inrush current limiting resistor is inserted within the space so as to be in contact with the smoothing capacitor.

9. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 7, wherein

the inrush current limiting resistor has a pair of lead wires extending one from either of opposing ends of the main body,

one of the lead wires extends through a space present between the main body of the smoothing capacitor and an inner surface of the small diameter portion, and connects to the base, and

the inrush current limiting resistor is inserted within the space so as to be in contact with the smoothing capacitor.

10. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 6,
wherein,

the main body of the resonance capacitor is inclined along the tapered portion, so
as to be in contact with or in proximity to the inrush current resistor.

11. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 7,
wherein,

the main body of the resonance capacitor is inclined along the tapered portion, so
as to be in contact with or in proximity to the inrush current resistor.

12. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 8,
wherein

the main body of the resonance capacitor is inclined along the tapered portion, so
as to be in contact with or in proximity to the inrush current resistor.

13. (Original) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 9,
wherein

the main body of the resonance capacitor is inclined along the tapered portion, so
as to be in contact with or in proximity to the inrush current resistor.

14. (Currently Amended) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to ~~any~~
~~one of Claims 3-13~~ Claim 3, wherein

the case and the smoothing capacitor differ in heat-resistant temperature at least by 30°C.

15. (New) The low-pressure mercury discharge lamp according to Claim 13, wherein the case and the smoothing capacitor differ in heat-resistant temperature at least by 30°C.